

# BIG FIGHT OVER MINING TAX BILL

Mr. Folkes Pays Respects to Critics, Lobbyists and Railroads During Discussion

## MEASURE ENGROSSED, BUT NOT PASSED YET

Extension of Session Now Unlikely, and Extra Session Is Out of Question—Reports in the Rhea and Blackstone Cases Big Events This Week.

BY LEWIS H. MACHEN.

The proceedings at the Capitol yesterday spelled busy with a big initial. The Blackstone investigating committee, which is the House Committee for Courts of Justice, sat from 10 o'clock until 1:30 P. M. It was a field day for the defense, as all the witnesses were introduced upon that side. Their testimony went to show that the accused was competent to attend to the business of the circuit, and the committee announced that it has now no doubt that such was the case.

May Be Division.

Testimony was also adduced to the effect that Judge Blackstone is a person whose general reputation as to sobriety and morality is excellent in certain portions of his district. Just how far this evidence of general reputation will avail him in the face of certain proved and admitted circumstances of particular delinquencies remains to be seen.

It is thought that the investigation will be concluded to-morrow, and that the report of the committee will be presented to the House on Tuesday or Wednesday.

What action will then be taken cannot be certainly predicted. It is known that some members of that body have made up their minds upon what they have heard and read of the testimony. Others, it is believed, have different information upon which they are prepared to act. Still others, perhaps a majority, will be guided by the report of the committee. Whether this will be unanimous or divided cannot now be known, but judging from the evident division of sentiment in the committee, it may be said that a minority report would occasion no surprise.

The action of the House, of course, depends upon circumstances not yet developed, but it is expected to come promptly upon the presentation of the findings of the committee.

In the Rhea investigation matter both houses yesterday adopted a joint resolution. In the usual form, governing the procedure of the joint meeting of the two houses to be held Tuesday night. The session will be open to the public.

Tax on Output of Mines.

In the Senate yesterday a matter wholly engrossed the attention of the members, namely, the bill to impose a tax of 1 per cent. on the value of the output of mines. This bill, of course, chiefly affects the southwestern portion of the State, where the great majority of the coal mines are situated. It is one of some other sections which have other kinds of mines. Beyond the question of local interest there is a wide difference of opinion as to the propriety of such a tax.

The fight was waged with zeal and ability upon both sides, and the result of the battle will not be known until the final vote is taken to-morrow.

License Tax on Pianos.

In the House some measure of importance was passed, though that body is suffering from the severe handicap of having so many of its members occupied with the Blackstone investigation. Among the measures passed was one to impose a license tax upon pilots of \$50, and the bill to reorganize the Board of Pensions, which will hereafter be known as the Commission of Pensions.

The bill providing for the establishment of a geological survey, with headquarters at the University of Virginia, having passed both houses, went to the Governor yesterday.

The Senate having substituted its own pension bill for that of the House, the difference between the two may have to be adjusted by a committee of conference.

Next week both houses will sit early and late, and it is hoped that something may be done to relieve the terrible congestion of the calendars of both branches.

Extension Not Likely.

No extension of the session seems probable, and an extra session is out of the question. How to do thirty days' work in ten days is the problem that now confronts the Legislature. The answer will be found in the long list of dead measures left on the calendar on the day of final adjournment.

## SESSIONS OF TWO HOUSES

Members of Both Branches Discuss Many Important Matters.

Speaker Byrd called the House of Delegates to order, and prayer was offered by the Rev. George H. McFadden, of the Methodist Church. Only a few bills were reported from the various committees, and most of these were of an unimportant nature.

A communication from the Senate conveyed notice that the upper branch had refused to concur in the amendment to bill 154, offered by Mr. Churchman, which provided for a tax on peddlers of pianos, organs, lightning rods, etc. Mr. Churchman insisted on his amendment, and asked for the appointment of a joint committee to confer in regard to the matter. The Senate agreed to this.

Open to Public.

Judge Martin Williams, of Giles, introduced a resolution providing that on Tuesday night at 8 o'clock the General Assembly shall sit in the hall of the House of Delegates to consider the question of the confirmation or rejection of the nomination by the Governor.

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# REDUCE NUMBER, NOT WAGE

This Said to Be Plan of Railroads Since President's Letter.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]  
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 22.—It is understood that the retrenchment policy to be pursued by the railroads has been materially affected by the President's letter to the Interstate Commerce Commission, directing that an investigation be made to see whether or not the earnings of the roads justify the general cuts in wages, which the President has been informed are about to be made.

It is learned from the officials and counselors of about fifteen railroad systems who are now in Washington that the roads will resort to dismissals instead of reductions in wages. The railroad men say it is essential that the roads practice economy to meet the shrinkage in revenues growing out of lost business. The original program was to retain the bulk of the working forces and effect savings by reducing wages all around. They now say the President's letter has rendered this plan impracticable, and instead they will resort to dismissals.

President Mollen, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, who had a talk with the President last night, intimated to-day that this was the policy on his road and of other systems.

## FIRE BETWEEN THE RAILS

Robbers Take Bold Step to Cause Wreck, but Get Wrong Train.

SEDALIA, MO., Feb. 22.—An attempt to derail an eastbound fast passenger train on the Missouri Pacific railroad, evidently for the purpose of robbery, was made at Otterville, twenty-five miles east of here at midnight last night, a rail having been removed. The bad place in the track was struck by an extra freight train from St. Louis. The freight was wrecked, the engineer, fireman and brakeman being seriously injured. The train that the wreckers evidently sought to catch left Kansas City at 9:30 last night from St. Louis. It was known as the "Jesse James" train, and was carrying considerable money. The wreckers had not only removed a rail on what is known as Otterville Hill, a mile and a half east of Otterville, but built a fire between the tracks to bring the passenger train to a stop. The freight crew failed to notice the fire until close upon it and too late to stop and the engine and seven cars were derailed and badly demolished. Missouri Pacific officials here say that they have no clue to the would-be robbers.

Three members of the crew, the engineer, fireman and head brakeman, were seriously injured. The injured were taken to the hospital. The wrecked train, which was carrying a load of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas at Sedalia for treatment.

On almost the exact spot where last night's attempt was made to rob the train, on the top of Otterville Hill, the famous Jesse James gang of robbers in 1875 held up a Missouri Pacific train and secured \$17,000.

## WORKING ON BOND FEATURE

Senator Daniel Gives Notice of Amendment in Interest of Southern Railroads.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The railroad bonds feature of the Aldrich currency bill was discussed informally to-day by the senate committee on finance. Senator Daniel announced that he was working on an amendment intended to broaden the scope of the bond feature so as to permit the use of securities of certain railroads in the South. Under the bill as it was reported from the committee the Louisville and Nashville and the Illinois Central are the only roads in the South whose securities may be used as a basis for emergency circulation, as these roads are the only ones that have met the requirements in regard to the payment of interest on all classes of bonds. An amendment to the bill has been adopted, providing that bonds of railroads, which regularly make reports to the commission under the provisions of the recent railroad act, shall be the only railroad securities that may be accepted by the Treasury as a basis for circulation. The committee generally believes this provision sufficient to safeguard the stability of national bank notes issued upon bonds other than those issued by authorized Federal, State, county and municipal governments.

## SPLIT HIS HEAD OPEN

Brutal Murder by a Bad Negro in New Brunswick County.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
LAWRENCEVILLE, VA., February 22.—This morning about 5 o'clock Grant Goode killed Sam Rivers by a blow with an ax. Both are colored men. It is charged that Goode killed and then robbed Rivers of money that he had on his person. He was taken before Squire Meritt, where a preliminary trial was held and the case sent on to the grand jury term, which is set for Tuesday. Goode has a very bad reputation in the community, having served a term in the penitentiary several years ago.

## KILLED AFTER BEING SAVED

Two Men, Rescued from River, Run Over by Train.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 22.—Saved from drowning after a terrible struggle in the icy water of Monongahela river, at Elizabeth, Pa., near here, only to be run down and killed by a train on reaching shore, was the fate last night of J. W. Draper and F. B. Garrett, two government employees at lock No. 2, C. & E. Draper, a companion, who saved the men from the water, was also hit by the train and probably fatally injured.

The men had quit work for the day when Draper slipped from the lock into the river. Garrett plunged in to rescue him, knowing Draper was unable to swim. Eventually Stoner rescued both men by the aid of a boat hook. Then all three started to walk along the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston railroad tracks to Elizabeth to get dry clothing. The approach of a fast train was not noticed, and the men were hurled high into the air.

The bodies of Draper and Garrett were horribly mutilated, while Stoner's head and blade was broken and his head badly cut.

## PRESIDENT HONORED GUEST

IN NEW FRENCH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 22.—President Roosevelt was the guest at dinner to-night of Ambassador Jusserand, of France. The occasion gave the President an opportunity to show the ambassador through the magnificent embassy building, which has been recently erected by the French government on Sixteenth Street, extended.

# DEMAND FOR MORE TO GET BUT LITTLE

Public Never Asked More of Congress Than Now, When the Least Will Be Done.

## AFRAID NOT TO PASS THE CURRENCY BILL

Would Put Republican Party Before the Country With Serious Handicap—All for Tariff Reform, but Will Have None.

Times-Dispatch Bureau.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 22.—The public never demanded more of any Congress probably than is being demanded of the present; yet no long session has ever granted less than this one promises to grant. The program of the majority of Congress for the present session embraces the enactment of the various appropriation bills, the passage of a currency bill, if possible, and adjournment. If any more legislation of anything like general importance is enacted, it will be in spite of the wishes of the Republican majority.

Of course, the majority of the things for which there is such general demand by the people will eventually become subjects of legislation, but not in the present session. Congress is proceeding with extreme care. It is absolutely certain that it would not try to enact currency legislation were it not that the majority is afraid to go to the country this fall without having given some show of relief from conditions which are recognized as being unbearable. In that a panic was created in a time of unexampled prosperity, and without our actual wealth having been in the least impaired.

Many members of Congress of both political parties assert that no legislation on this line is needed. The Democrats, who take this view, believe it would be good policy to defeat both the Aldrich and the Fowler bills, and then undertake to revise the entire currency system next session. The Republicans think it absolutely necessary that some sort of medicine be administered, even bread pills. The Aldrich bill is the one they favor.

Both Arise for Tariff Reform.

Both Democrats and Republicans are declaring for tariff reform. But there will be no reform this year. The President urges, and both sides in Congress admit, that the need of legislation aimed to correct evils growing out of the unwise use of injunctions by judges of Federal courts. There will not be any tariff reform legislation.

And so on with many other things, legislation affecting which there is such a strong demand, whether such legislation be of the kind as such as an income tax, Appalachian forest reserve, physical valuation of the railway property, or the strengthening of the capitalization of the railroad, strengthening of the Sherman law, and amendment of the Federal Reserve act. The subjects on which congressional action is demanded.

Most of these things which are being postponed will come later. Some of them are being put off only until next session. The demand for them will be repeated in the polls this fall. No matter whether the Democrats or the Republicans control the next House of Representatives, it is likely that about the same things will be attempted in the way of legislation.

Little Difference in Platforms.

For there is not going to be a vast difference in the platforms of the two parties this year. Candidates are going to stand for about the same things. Not a man has been found who will dare say that the government should be run on the platform of the Democrats and the Republicans will be widely different.

Things are in a ferment in this country, and nowhere is this unrest more apparent than in Congress. The people generally are doing more serious thinking on government subjects than they ever did before. Members of Congress are thinking, that is, there are more of them, seriously studying questions of government than at any time in our more recent history. Of course, there are still many who pay more attention to a fight to the third-class office than to the currency question, many who still count on retaining their seats through appeals to party prejudice, and many who are actually thinking of the number of votes they can get. The country is discussing.

A new order has arisen, begotten by Foster, and which presses for solution. There is still the school which seeks to solve all such by some alleged precedent set a century ago—conservatism. The other new school is studying, evolving, smashing precedents and ready to make a new one every day until the new questions have been answered—radicalism.

Old Landmarks are Passing.

It is hard to say how the struggle will end. The fathers of the republic were fearfully radical, but they took the side of radicalism which grows higher with every obstruction placed in its way.

Old landmarks do not appear to be as attractive now as once they were.

## TAKE FREEMAN'S OATH

Two Thousand "First Voters" in New York Swear Before Bishop Potter.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Two thousand "first voters" and a number of bowery "floaters" last night took the "freeman's oath" at a meeting of the People's Institute at Cooper Union. The oath was administered by Bishop Henry C. Potter, who told of the origin of the oath in 1834. The words of the oath were taken as follows: "I do solemnly bind myself that I will give my vote and suffrage as I shall judge in mine own conscience may best conduce to the public weal, to the honor of God." Before asking those present to subscribe to this pledge of good citizenship, Bishop Potter spoke of the responsibility resting on voters, and said it was at present exercised without proper training, sobriety, and thought.

# JUSTICE BREWER SOUNDS WARNING

Our Rapid Growth Leading to Extravagance and Unwise Accounting of Future.

## GROWTH OF THE NATION MARVEL OF THE WORLD

Is the Republic Seeking Only Material Development, Luxury, Ostentation and Parade, or Striving for Higher Type of National and Individual Life?

NEW YORK, February 22.—A note of warning that our rapid growth of national greatness was leading to an unwise accounting of the future and developing a habit of extravagance was sounded to-night in a speech delivered with judicial impressiveness by Justice David J. Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, before a large audience, which filled Cooper Union Hall. The lecture was arranged by the Board of Education, and Justice Brewer chose as his topic "Quantity and Quality, as Displayed in the Life of the Nation; or, The United States; Its Larger and Higher Life."

The eminent jurist said in part:

"The United States is the marvel of the ages; the giant of the nations. Not three centuries have passed since the first English colony was established within its limits. To-day it is the peaceful home of 80,000,000 of free men dwelling between the two oceans. Not merely in population, but in resources, wealth, intelligence, culture and achievement it challenges the admiration of all. Taken in its entirety its phenomenal development is unequalled. We stand like mythological Hercules, the giant of the nations, and if we do not have his club we have the 'big stick' of Theodore Roosevelt. We are a great people."

"Is this republic more and more seeking only material development, luxurious living, ostentation and parade, or is it looking to the higher things, striving for those which make for the better life of the individual and the nation? It cannot be blind to the fact that there is great striving after the material; that we do love the luxuries of life, and to see them increase and multiply. We are manifesting a fondness for military and naval prowess. We are building a great navy. We magnify both our army and army in our larger cities is abundance of parade and display. Our great expansion and rapid growth in population and resources is developing a habit of extravagance. We have most unwisely discounted the future, and we are now paying the price of our shortsightedness. We are in debt about \$2,000,000,000. It set resolutely to work to pay that debt, and it continued paying until the beginning of the Spanish War, but since then debt paying has become almost a thing of no account. We are now carrying an interest-bearing debt of about \$1,000,000,000. More than one-half of the forty-five States are in debt. When we pass into the domain of municipal indebtedness the figures are simply startling."

## ENGINEERS ASK CONFERENCE

Ask Southern Roads to Meet Their Representatives About Wages.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, February 22.—A general conference of the representatives of seventeen Southern railroads has been asked by the national officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers to consider the proposal to cut wages on March 1st, according to an announcement made here to-day. The proposition was submitted to the General Manager Horace Baker, of the Queen and Crescent Line, by Assistant Grand Chief Burgess, of Atlanta, who is here conferring with the officers of the Engineers' Brotherhood on that system.

Mr. Burgess said to-day: "The engineers feel that they have already borne their share of the burden. The earning capacity has been decreased by a reduced mileage, upon which basis they are paid, and they do not feel that they should be subjected to an additional reduction in the actual sum as a 10 per cent. cut would create. We ask for the general conference in order to show the justice of our contention. If we are wrong we are willing to negotiate for an equitable revision."

## SHAFT OF WHISKEY JUGS

Man Who Had Drunk Long and Hard Wished Such a Monument.

COLUMBIA, MO., Feb. 22.—James W. Turner, a hermit farmer, living six miles from here, who had frequently declared he wanted a monument built of whiskey jugs, died last night.

His farm is an abandoned cornfield, which is almost filled with empty whiskey jugs, which Turner is said to have emptied himself with twenty years, and which he saved for his monument. It is averred he drank not less than a quart of whiskey a day. He was 45 years old and owned a well-stocked farm. He was a hermit. His only companion was a dog.

## YOUNG WOMAN'S TONGUE POISONED BY LICKING POSTAGE STAMP.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—For the second time in two years Miss Ayra Silvernole, of Norfolk, Conn., is in a New York hospital suffering from a disease of the tongue, which is said to have been contracted through contact with postage stamps while she was engaged as an assistant in the Norfolk postoffice. The disease is exceedingly painful and the hospital surgeons are at a loss to account for it, but believe it to be the result of poisoning.

## To Meet Luther's Successor.

COLUMBIA, S. C., February 22.—The General Assembly of South Carolina adjourned to-day, having been in session forty days, but will reassemble on March 2d and remain in session until a successor of the late Senator Luther is elected.

# ANNIVERSARY IS CELEBRATED HERE

Parades Chief Events in Observance of Washington's Birthday.

## NEW HAVEN GUARDS PAY VISIT TO CITY

Present Handsome Clock to the Blues and Attend Banquet at Murphy's at Night—Great Crowds Witness Drill at the Capitol Square.

With the sound of bugle and drum and the show of brilliant scarlet and blue uniforms in the clear sunshine of a springlike day, the anniversary of the birth of George Washington was celebrated in Richmond yesterday. Many local happenings marked the day, but the event of chief note was the visit of a detachment of the Governor's Foot Guard from New Haven, Conn., who, as the guests of the R. I. Blues, took part in the parade of the afternoon and attracted much attention in their elaborate uniforms, including in elegance of detail and appointments the showy dress of the Blues themselves.

Holiday was observed throughout the city, banks and public offices of all sorts being closed. In the City Hall the Police and Fire Departments alone kept vigil; the State and Federal office buildings were even more deserted. The anniversary, falling this year on Saturday, the school children were cheated out of their day's vacation, but in many of the schools suitable exercises were held on Friday afternoon. A parade and flag-raising exercises at the new High School building marked the celebration in Manchester.

Early yesterday morning the officers of the Old Dominion Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a wreath of American Beauty roses at the base of the Houdon statue of Washington, in the State Capitol Building.

Parade and Drill.

Official celebration of the day began with the arrival of the twenty members of the Connecticut Foot Guard, who were escorted by members of the Blues' battalion to their headquarters at the Jefferson Hotel. The officers and noncommissioned officers of the Blues spent the morning showing their guests about the city, and in the afternoon they were entertained by the Blues at luncheon at the Jefferson at midday. A parade was formed at 3:30 P. M., the three companies of the Blues, in full dress uniform, with waving white plumes, being under command of Major E. W. Bowles. With brass band, and with the Connecticut detachment occupying the position of honor in the line of march, the column moved through Grace and Franklin Streets, making a brief halt at the Lee Monument, and returning to the Capitol Square, where the Blues gave a dress parade and exhibition drill, which was highly praised by the visiting military.

The drill was greatly handicapped by the presence of a throng of people, who crowded against the lines and at times prevented a regular formation. There was a noticeable absence of police assistance in making a worthy and handsome parade, and in checking the rush of the people.

Late in the evening the Blues were the hosts to the visitors, the whole battalion, with the Connecticut troops, being seated around the banquet board at Murphy's Hotel. Following the banquet, Captain Edward S. Beecher, of the Foot Guards, a lineal descendant of Thaddeus Beecher, a member of the same company of the Foot Guards, presented to the Blues' Battalion, on the part of the Guards, a handsome clock, in token of their appreciation of the reception given to them when on their visit to Richmond last October.

In Manchester.

In the meantime an elaborate parade with notable exercises had taken place on the other side of the river in the city of Manchester. A detachment of the Howitzers, under the command of Lieutenant Polard, participated in the ceremonies, as did the Manchester Councils of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics and several other organizations.

In some respects the parade was the largest spectacle of its kind ever seen in Manchester, over 500 men being in the column, which moved from Eighth and Hull Streets, followed by a stream of carriages carrying speakers, municipal officers and guests.

The procession made its way through the streets to the new High School building, where flag-raising exercises were held.

Children Celebrate.

Recognition of the anniversary of the birth of Washington will be made in many of the city churches this morning. Most of the public schools honored the day at their closing hour on Friday. Particularly elaborate exercises were held at Nicholson School, in Fulton, when recitations, songs and appropriate exercises were rehearsed in the presence of many parents and friends of the school. The children received liberal applause for their excellent work.

The Legislature adjourned yesterday in honor of the event.

More generally than usual in Richmond the day was celebrated as a holiday, a large number of business houses being closed entirely, while others suspending operations early in the day, giving their clerks and employees an opportunity to enjoy the crisp, fresh air and sunshine of one of the most beautiful days the winter has yet brought.

At Academy Tuesday.

Arrangements have been completed for the joint celebration of Washington's birthday by the Junior Order of United American Mechanics and the Daughters of Liberty of Richmond, and Manchester at the Academy of Music on Tuesday night. The organizations

(Continued on Second Page.)

# HUGHES AND WHEELER

Speeches of These Men Featuration of Chicago's Washington Celebration.

CHICAGO, ILL., February 22.—Governor Charles E. Hughes, of New York, and Benjamin Ide Wheeler, president of the University of California, were the principal speakers at the series of meetings held to-day under the auspices of the Union League Club in commemoration of Washington's birthday.

Governor Hughes delivered the chief speech at a big mass-meeting in the Auditorium in the morning and President Wheeler was featured at an afternoon meeting, held in Orchestra Hall. Both spoke at a banquet in the clubhouse this evening.

The three functions were the leading celebrations of the holiday in Chicago. Various other local organizations had set programs, varying from special to political. In most of them, however, the historical aspects of the day were made the basis of the celebration.

## PROTEST OF AMERICANISM

Senator Burdett Declares Government Ownership Is Un-American.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 22.—Senator Burdett, of Nebraska, was the principal speaker to-day at the winter convocation of the George Washington University, held at the Belasco Theatre. The trustees and members of the faculty in caps and gowns marched in procession from the university to the theatre.

Senator Burdett's theme was "The Protest of Americanism Against Government Ownership of Railroads." Government ownership, he declared, would go to the very heart of our body politic, would mean the loss of our only political, but commercially, as well as paternalism in politics and socialism in commerce. The system was European and un-American. It would involve an enormous expense because experience had shown that the United States never made money out of anything, and even as the railroads lost money last year, the present large amount of money collected as taxes on railroads would not operate the railroads as economically as private owners.

## NEW YORK CELEBRATION

Exercises Held Where Washington's Headquarters Once Were.

NEW YORK, February 22.—George Washington's birthday was celebrated to-day with parades, speeches and dinners by patriotic societies.

Under the auspices of its custodians, the Daughters of the American Revolution, a Washington birthday celebration was conducted in the old Jumeau mansion on Washington Heights, which was Washington's headquarters during the Revolution. Among the speakers at the exercises was General Stuart, of Woodstock.

Following the events to-night was the speech of Justice Brewer of the Supreme Court of the United States, at Cooper Union, on "Quantity and Quality in the Nation." The banquet of the Sons of the Revolution was held at Delmonico's to-night, and speeches were made by ex-United States Senator John C. Spooner, Professor William M. Sloane, of Columbia University, and Supreme Court Justice Fitzgerald.

## Fleet Fires National Salute.

LIMA, February 22.—The national salute was fired from the assembled warships in Callao harbor at noon to-day in honor of the birth of General Washington. The salutation was answered by the Peruvian ships of war in port.

## ESCORTED BY 400 GIRLS

V. M. C. A. Delegates Visit a College.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
LYNCHBURG, VA., February 22.—This was another busy day with the Young Men's Christian Association, which is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. The association was taken up principally with business discussions and an address by Dr. Carter Helm Jones, of Lynchburg, on the theme, "The Other Man." This address was unusually strong. After the report of the State work and testimony of the present efficient organization, pledges were taken, amounting to more than \$1,500 for work this year. The recommendations of the State committee for work this year were adopted in toto. This afternoon four department conferences were held simultaneously, all being well attended. At 4 o'clock the convention adjourned to the Randolph-Macon Woman's College, where the delegates were shown through the buildings, with 400 girls acting as escorts.

A big crowd was present to-night when "Foreign Mission" was the inspiring theme, and an address by Mr. Fletcher S. Brockman, national secretary of the Y. M. C. A., being the feature. Pledges were taken in five minutes, amounting to \$350 for association work, the Lynchburg force contributing leading with a pledge of \$300.

At 4 o'clock the convention adjourned to-morrow, with the farewell service at 9 P. M.

## CRANE'S SPEECH A SURPRISE

Speaking in London He Disapproves of Fleet's Pacific Cruise.

LONDON, February 22.—Washington's birthday was celebrated to-night by the London section of the American Navy League by a dinner at Hyde Park Hotel. The speakers included Marshal O. Fox, Fredericks Fisk, Colonel Ashley Cole, F. C. Vanduser and R. New Crane.

Mr. Crane, who has represented the United States government on several important occasions, spoke at length on the "yellow peril" taken in five minutes, amounting to \$350 for association work, the Lynchburg force contributing leading with a pledge of \$300.

At 4 o'clock the convention adjourned to-morrow, with the farewell service at 9 P. M.

## LOCAL OPTION IN DANVILLE

Sufficient Signatures to Warrant Judge In Ordering Election.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
DANVILLE, VA., February 22.—A petition filed yesterday by the Anti-Saloon League asking Judge A. M. Aiken, of the Corporation Court, to order a special election in the near future to vote on whether to legalize the sale of liquor in Danville. A sufficient number of signatures of registered voters have been secured, and a wet and dry election, probably in April, is practically an assured fact. The vote of two years ago in the town of Danville was voted wet again by a small majority about two years ago.

# JUDGE'S RECORD AND HABITS GOOD, WITNESSES SAY

Blackstone Has Inning, Testimony Yesterday Being Entirely in His Favor.

## INCOMPETENCY CHARGE HAS BEEN DISMISSED

Hearing Will Probably Be Completed by Tuesday Evening. Committee to Meet Again at 10 o'Clock To-Morrow Morning—One Session Yesterday.

Holding but one session in the Blackstone investigation matter yesterday, the House Committee for Courts of Justice adjourned at 1:30 o'clock, to reconvene at 10 o'clock to-morrow, and with three sittings on that day it is likely that all the testimony will be gotten in, and that the case will be argued by counsel on Tuesday.

Not only did the committee dismiss one of the charges against the accused judge, but all the evidence submitted was highly favorable to him. Chairman Mastie announced that the committee would hear no more testimony on the charge of "incompetency," as the members were all satisfied that Judge Blackstone was thoroughly capable. The session, which commenced at 10 A. M., was full of interruption, but the evidence submitted was highly favorable to him. Chairman Mastie announced that the committee would hear no more testimony on the charge of "incompetency," as the members were all satisfied that Judge Blackstone was thoroughly capable. The session, which commenced at 10 A. M., was full of interruption, but the evidence submitted was highly favorable to him.

## HEARING IN DETAIL

Many Witnesses Appear and Testify for Judge Blackstone.

Mr. W. C. Stuart, of Newport News, was the first witness.

"Do you practice in Judge Blackstone's court?" asked Mr. Ashley.

"Yes, sir."

"Frequently?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you see the judge at any time at night during the trial of the damage suit in which you were counsel in January last?"

"Yes, sir."

"What was the judge's condition?"

"He was sick in bed, and we argued the instructions before him in his room. He passed upon them."

"Do you think Judge Blackstone is mentally competent to grasp and comprehend legal propositions?"

"Undoubtedly, sir."

Mr. Stuart was not cross-examined, and Mr. W. T. Moss, of Newport News, also a lawyer, took the stand.

"Did you see Judge Blackstone when he was last in Newport News?" asked Mr. Ashley.

"Yes, sir."

"Do you consider him competent to carry on the business of his court?"

"Yes, sir."

"What have been your means of observation?"

"I have been practicing in his court ever since he has been on the bench."

One cross-examination witness said he had only one case in Judge Blackstone's court within the past two months. He declared he had never seen the judge either asleep or drunk on the bench.

Judge Dudley on Stand.

Former Judge S. Dudley, of Hampton, was next examined.

"Does Judge Blackstone comprehend the business of his court, in your opinion?" he was asked.

"Unquestionably."

"Does he transact the business expeditiously?"

"More so than any judge I ever saw."

"You are in his court frequently?"

"Yes, sir, and I am a commissioner of accounts in his court."

"Is he quick and accurate in the handling of your accounts?"

"He can add up three columns of figures while I am adding one, and he is quick to discover an error, if it only involves 1 cent."

Witness said he had known Judge Blackstone for twenty-six years, and he thought his mental condition as good now as when he first met him. He had not heard Judge Blackstone's reputation for sobriety and morality questioned in Hampton until the petition against him had been circulated, but since that time he had heard the matter discussed by both his friends and enemies.

Judge Dudley combated the testimony of a former witness that upon a recent application for an injunction in Hampton Judge Blackstone was drunk. At this point he stood aside.

Good Witness.

Commonwealth's Attorney P. St. George Wilcox, of Warwick County, was a good witness for Judge Blackstone.

"Were you in Hampton at any time